



**Attendees:** Terri Hogan (note taker, DOI-NPS), MaryAnn Rondinella (cochair, DOT-NHWA), Chris Holdren and Scott O'Mera (DOI-BOR), Lee Van Wychen (WSSA), Bob Nowierski (USDA-NIFA), Chuck Barger (EDDMapS, NAISN), Annie Simpson (cochair, DOI-USGS), Jonathan Jones (USDA-APHIS)

## **Participants' Roundtable (All)**

### ***Annie Simpson (USGS)***

USA Jobs listed three position descriptions that might be of interest to FICMNEW attendees, all are program coordinator positions at a GS-15 level. One is the Invasive Species and Wildlife Diseases Coordinator, which has been modified to include duties to liaise with members of Congress. All positions are available on USA Jobs and have been announced on the FICMNEW listserv. They will be closing soon.

### ***Terri Hogan (NPS)***

IPP strategic planning process is underway. A broad review is pending.

### ***Chris Holdren and Scott O'Mera (BOR)***

BOR's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator position will be posted on the FICMNEW list. It is now open to non-feds, especially botanists with invasive species management experience. Two main tasks will deal with riparian revegetation and aquatic mussels issues. Scott is the technical contact for the new hire.

### ***Bob Nowierski (NIFA)***

Additional grant programs that have been added to my responsibilities include the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program: Plant Production and Protection-Biology; and the Methyl Bromide Transitions Program (to develop alternative fumigants to Methyl Bromide, which is an ozone depleter).

### ***Lee Van Wychen (WSSA)***

- My organization would prefer a continuing resolution to the current Senate budget markup, with respect to invasive species and biofuel crops.
- Donn Schilling will be the new WSSA liaison and work closely with NIFA and EPA.
- A number of invasive species related organizations, let by the National Wildlife Federation, voiced our concerns about how to reduce the invasion risk of biomass crops. We made the following specific recommendations concerning the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) implementation of BCAP:

1. FSA should do an initial screen of the invasive potential of proposed feedstocks and: (a) deny approval to any proposed crops included on state or federal noxious weed lists or categorized as invasive or noxious on the USDA Plants Database. (b) deny approval to any proposed crops found to be potentially invasive by a credible risk assessment tool such as USDA-APHIS weed risk assessments, state weed risk assessments where available, or a similar risk assessment by an independent third party with credentials in invasive risk.

2. For species that pass the initial screen, a more in depth assessment of invasive potential should be done through the PEIS process.



3. FSA should consult with appropriate federal and state agencies and departments, including USDA-APHIS, the National Invasive Species Council, state agriculture departments, state fish and wildlife and natural resource agencies, and federal land management agencies about the invasive potential of proposed feedstocks.
4. FSA should expedite the approval of low invasion-risk biomass crops through creation of “white lists” of low risk, pre-approved species and varieties
5. FSA should include feedstock-specific mandatory best management practices in conservation plans, such as are included in the approval of sterile giant miscanthus.

***Jonathan Jones (APHIS)***

States are now using the Weed Risk Assessment model suggested by APHIS. It is synergistic, but resource-intensive. This collaboration is ongoing. There are currently 90 WRAs posted, and we hope to add 12 more this year. These WRAs are different than New Zealand's, and hopefully better for the US.

List is available by expanding a link found on this page:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm:path:/aphis\\_content\\_library/sa\\_our\\_focus/sa\\_plant\\_health/sa\\_domestic\\_pests\\_and\\_diseases/sa\\_pests\\_and\\_diseases/sa\\_weeds/sa\\_noxious\\_weeds\\_program/ct\\_riskassessments](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm:path:/aphis_content_library/sa_our_focus/sa_plant_health/sa_domestic_pests_and_diseases/sa_pests_and_diseases/sa_weeds/sa_noxious_weeds_program/ct_riskassessments)

Guidelines document: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/weeds/downloads/wra/wra-guidelines.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/downloads/wra/wra-guidelines.pdf)

***MaryAnn Rondinella (DOT-FHWA)***

- Congress is still working on a new surface transportation bill. The Senate has drafted a six-year bill that differs from a House bill and the Administration's bill. It appears likely that Congress will pass a continuing resolution of the current MAP-21 bill until the differences can be resolved after both houses of Congress return from their summer recess.
- There is an environmental protection specialist vacancy in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. It is open to both Federal employees and U.S. Citizens:

**Environmental Protection Specialist**

Help the USDOT and its federal partners improve the environmental review process, as we strive to make it more transparent and efficient while delivering better outcomes. This position in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy will work with leadership and professionals inside the DOT and across federal agencies to modernize interagency environmental permitting, including the expansion of the Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard. The selected candidate will also be responsible for reviewing and recommending action on complex and environmentally controversial transportation projects. The office is a fast-paced, team-based environment in which staff have the opportunity to assist in policy development at the highest levels. The ideal candidate will be a seasoned, motivated and self-reliant professional with expertise in the review and evaluation of new and established environmental policies and programs.



View the USAJOBS notices here:

OST.P-2015-0009 - (Gov. Wide): <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/411197300>

OST.P-2015-0010- (DEU- US Citizens): <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/411197000>

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 26-Aug-15, 3:30 PM eastern. **This is one hour later than normal because of the AM ITAP meeting on the same day.**

**Potential Acronyms List** [note that some acronyms in this list may not appear in this document]

Term	Meaning	FICMNEW	Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious Exotic Weeds		
ACK55	Bioherbicide Pseudomonas fluorescens strain ACK55	FSA	Farm Service Agency	NOAA	National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Agency, Dept of Commerce
AM	Ante Meridian (morning)	FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. Interior	NPS	National Park Service, Department of Interior
ANSTF	Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force	GAO	Government Accountability Office	NY	New York
APHIS	Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Dept. Agriculture	GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms	OESHA	Office of Environment, Safety and Health Assessments, Department of Energy
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program	GrSG	Greater Sage Grouse	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ARS	Agricultural Research Service	ICR	Internal Control Review	PA	Pennsylvania
ASAP	As Soon As Possible	IPC	Invasive Plant Control, Inc.	PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
BAs	Biological Assessments	IPM	Integrated Pest Management	PM	Post Meridian (afternoon)
BCAP	Biomass Crop Assistance Program	IPP	Invasive Plant Program (NPS)	PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
BCAW	Biological Control Agents of Weeds	ISAC	Invasive Species Advisory Committee (NISC FACA Committee)	RFP	Request For Proposals
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, Dept. Interior	ITAP	Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Terrestrial Animals and Pathogens	RFS	Renewable Fuel Standard program (EPA)
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. Interior	MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act	RIN	Regulation Identification Number (EPA)
CO	Colorado	MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding	RRIS	Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition
CPPM	Crop Protection and Pest Management	NAIS	North American Invasive Species	SAFED	FICMNEW elist for federal employees
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area	NAISF	North American Invasive Species Forum; also "NAIS Forum" (formerly Weeds Across Borders),	SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research
D7	bioherbicide Pseudomonas fluorescens strain D7	NAISMA	North American Invasive Species Management Association (formerly NAWMA)	SD-DA	South Dakota Dept. Agriculture
DHS	Department of Homeland Security	NAISN	North American Invasive Species Network	T&E	Threatened and Endangered
DOE	Department of Energy	NAWMA	North American Weed Management Association (former name, now NAISMA)	TAG	Technical Advisory Group
DOI	Department of Interior	NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County, Department of Defense	TN	Tennessee
DOS	Department of State	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
DOT	Department of Transportation	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization, generally not-for-profit	US(A)	United States (of America)
EA	Environmental Assessment	NIFA	National Institute of Food an Agriculture, Dept. Agriculture	USDA	United States Dept. Agriculture
EAB	Emerald Ash Borer	NISC	National Invasive Species Council	USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
EDDMapS	Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System			USFS	United States Forest Service, Dept. Agriculture
EDRR	Early Detection Rapid assessment and Response			USGS	United States Geological Survey, Dept. Interior
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement			WAB	Weeds Across Borders (now North American Invasive Species Forum)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency			WRA	Weed Risk Assessment
EPPC	Exotic Plant Pest Council			WSSA	Weed Science Society of America
ESA	Endangered Species Act				
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act				
FEIS	Fire Effects Information System				
		NISMS	National Invasive Species Management System (BLM)		
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, Dept of Transportation				